P.S. the last Feb. 21. Just as I am closing this comes yours of Feb. 7, enclosing notes to Mrs Cochran, C. K. Whipple, & E. M. Davis; — the ~~latter~~ last-named, you say, to have the "Spectator" — at once? or am I to hear from him about it? I will send soon.

Leicester,
Febr. 20. 1871.
Monday.

Dear friend Webb, I know it is long, much too long, since I sent you a line, but I certainly thought I had told you of the arrival of your box of papers at the Worcr. Library, and that Mr Green, the Asstt. Libn., had sent me very promptly the very small amt. you claimed as payt for costs ($3.05 in currency), and that I forthwith sent the same to Frank Garrison as you requested. If I have not done that, I must begin to fear that my memory is proving a little treacherous. But still more, if the Worc. Library people did not at once write to you, to acknowledge the box, — or, at least, write directly after the first meeting of their Directors in acknowt of the donation — it wd. be very strange indeed. But I cannot believe they did omit that, — overlook it they could not, possibly, — and if you have recd. nothing of the kind it must be owing to some error of address or other casualty. When I am in Worcr., I will inquire. Our last from you was yr. short note of Feb. 4. (recd. Satd. 18th), inquiring as above, & enclosing notes for Mr. Haydock, Miss Mumford, & F. J. G., all of wh. I have sent forward. — What you say therein of "envying the hybernating animals" this winter, is almost the same *verbatim*, as it is entirely in idea, with what Julia Goddard of Birmingham said in a note to my wife. The weather in Middle England

~~These~~ they all represent as very severe. That family (my Uncle's) evidently has never before known so trying a winter. On Christmas day (another of our cousins there writes us) the merc. was only 9° above 0; – certainly extreme for England, &, I can easily imagine, just about intolerable in their damp & foggy atmosphere, – which makes more than 10 degrees difference; I honestly believe, in the penetrating ~~effect~~ power of the cold, or in the ability of the human system to resist it, or both. Then they have no Stoves, & depend on grates & open fire-places – excellent, where the merc. doesn't go below 20°, or thereabouts. We had, per contra, a mild & pleasant & very comfortable winter, – (with few exceptions, there were some –) up to the 1st of February, or a little before. Since then we have had it extremely cold, – with high, & even furious wind, – the worst element in our cold. Two weeks ago yesterday morning, when I went up to Church, at a little before 11 a.m., the therm. stood at ten degrees below Zero (Fahrenheit), and it was blowing so that I could but just stem it. I went alone, I objected to Ade's going, on her own acct., as ~~well~~ also from unwillingness to leave the house with servants only at such a time. In the evening, she went to Church – it having moderated to about 5° plus, and the wind a good deal less, – and I staid at home. High winds have followed us ~~almost~~ very steadily, now from this,

I don't know why I am crowding this sheet so – and will go to another. —

in English minds, even educated ones & those which should be large & broad, towards their colonies, dependents, & for that matter other peoples & nations generally – witness Carlyle, Kingsley, Tennyson, & now Froude, – Dickens had much of it, but outgrew the worst of it, The Duke of Argyll, John Bright, Thomas Hughes, & a few more, are noble exceptions (but their no. is very small) – Gladstone had much of it.

& now from the other quarter. Six & eight days ago we had 2 violent No. East Snow Storms, — of short duration, — but both bringing a considerable body of snow, more than for 2 years previously. On Saturday (day before yesty) came a change, — rain from due South, beating on the front of the house — with wind fully equal to a gale — & howled at & shook us all day — the water running through, under, & over the snow & bothering us much; & yet every body thankful for it, such has been (for 8 or 9 mos.), & such continues to be, the great dearth of water throughout New England, New York, &c. &c. On Saturday night, another change, and everything froze up, so that we could have gone to Church yesterday on skates quite well; and, as it was, could with difficulty preserve an upright position in going & coming. "We" there means Bessie & myself; for that child came home again on Friday last, after seven weeks' absence, — a good deal longer than was proposed; but "one thing led to another", — you know how it is — and she has had, to use our country phrase, "a most an excellent time" — all, except Washington, where she spent a fortnight & was most kindly treated, invited, & shown about; but Washn. Socy. is not to her mind at all, & she would deem it a very hard fate that consigned her to live, or spend much time, there. Thence she went to Annapolis, Maryland, (on Chesapeake bay) where the United States has a Naval School for young officers; & where her cousin (Louisa Davis that was, of Greenfield, but who is Louisa Clark.) lives, with her husband, who is a Lieut. Comr. in the Navy, & now acting as a Teacher in said School. They have one little year-old child, & their home is afloat — having the whole cabin-quarters of the U.S. Ship "Santee" for their use. There they live very cosily, "rocked in the cradle of the deep" very slightly, & there Bessie visited them, & staid about a week, finding there her younger cousin Nelly Davis, (a sort of adopted child of our own, since her Mother died ten yrs. ago) and all together made it very merry & delightful. An occasional "hop" — one at least — & other active amusements — came in very opportunely. Thence she came, homeward, stopping & spending a Sunday (that fearful one aforesaid when I, here, went to church, at 10° below 0) at Brooklyn, opp. New York. Next day, cold & bitter tho' it was, she started for home, and we notified our Lieut. Coach to meet her at the Worc

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Station at the proper time, I sent her an extra shawl, &c.— just too late to countermand this order, we received a telegra from New Haven (80 miles this side of New York), saying that th Sargent family there had got possession of Bessie, & intended to "ke her as long as they could"! This of course disappointed us b at first; but very soon we were glad of it, as a very good thing, B. to do, and a better oppº. she could not have, & was not likel any other very soon. Said Sargent family are of the Leicester Sar and the children are always summer visitors to L., & the eldest da (just B.'s age) was a schoolfellow at Lexington, Mass. under The Weld, &c. So there she staid *eleven* days,—& she said she could har get away then; but 4 or 5 ought to have sufficed, perhaps.— She in good time,—to look after house-affairs somewhat, for, just then, it w ordered that Ade. was *taken down* with a very severe cold, which spent its worst force on her throat. She is still confined to her ro & bed with about the worst inflammatory sore throat she has eve in her life, & the throat is apt to be a weak point with her. Sh under the Dr.'s care, and is considerably relieved this morning. this exception she has been very well all winter; and we have —she and I—very quiet & comfortable times together. She says has never been so "comfortable" in her life before;—our furna a powerful one, producing a quite summer atmosphere, in ord weather, throughout the main body of the house (the square part], easily warming, to 70°, on the severest, 10°-below-0, days all rooms we *need* to occupy; & even then, if not checked or off into other apartments, running up to 76° & 78°. So now we hoping she will be soon well again, & we can resume reading, &c. &c. to & talk over Bessie's experiences together, & "the rest of mankind". We h read a good deal aloud, "Noddebo" for one book,—quite a curious & amu The "Graphic" comes regularly, & finds a warm welcome;—of course we *kept* the nos. for Bessie, but one came on Saty, & 2 had come since I h went to Boston. I usually carry them, & either take them out to Mrs. G or send them by one of the boys (You will have heard of Frank's ne position, at Cambridge, in the Riverside Press office; you & he can, mor ever, sympathize with each other.) The "Spectator" too is ever w & regular; tho' I haven't time for more than *a selection* from its al well written articles. Mr. Montgomy. too enjoys it. We shall follow permissory directions about it, & with thanks! The last No. has an excel article on Mr. Motley,—*the best*, decidedly, I have seen in any quarter, abou matter. Mr. M. did, I think, make some mistakes,—yet *nothing* was done

warrant the unmannerly and undignified course the Govt. took with him; & the "Spectator" holds up Mr. Fish to deserved ridicule. Another good article, in same Spectator, is that on Mr. Froude & Ireland,—& rebukes F. properly;—how could he write so? There is an evil spirit in a devil.